and around the forest areas. Thus, about 94 tigers have died during the year 2000. The tiger population in the country as per the last 3 census is as follows:—

S.No.	Census Year	No. of Tiger in Wild
1.	1989	4334
2.	1993	3750
3.	1997	3836

(c) Wild animals are on the negative list of your export policy and therefore, export of wild animals is normally allowed only from zoo to zoo on exchange basis. Although, capture of tigers from the wild for display in zoos is totally prohibited, some wild tigers are always received as rescued animals. In view of the genetic importance, these animals are not allowed for export. Zoo to zoo exchange is allowed in respect of captive breed tigers only. As far as diplomatic gifts are concerned, guidelines issued by International Union for Conservation of Nature are strictly adhered to. It is also ensured that the recipient country has appropriate housing and upkeep facilities. Chhatbir zoo from where tigers have been gifted in the instant case, had 29 tigers in their stock. Gift of two tigers to Tripoli Zoo in Libya in no way hamper their conservation programme.

Tiger Population

671. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the census has shown the tiger population to be around 4,500;

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to census the actual tiger population is less than 800;

(c) if so, what is the actual tiger population; and

(d) what are the reasons for variation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) According to the reports received from the State Governments the tiger population in the country is estimated to be around 3800.